



News Release

For Immediate Release:

August 5, 2021

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DGS Completes Work on Capitol Skylight Replacement Project

RICHMOND, VA – The Department of General Services (DGS) today announced completion of a project to replace the former skylight at the Capitol portico plaza with a new granite compass rose inset and a new lighting element that brightens the space where a sculpture of Thomas Jefferson stands inside the Capitol Visitor’s Center.

The replacement replicates elements of the original glass compass rose, incorporating the same three types of granite plaza pavers into the 16’8” design, plus an additional granite type used at the Bank Street Visitor’s Center entrance. The original bronze Virginia seal at the compass center was replaced, and the new compass design retained the nontraditional 12-point geometry.

Inside the Capitol Visitor’s Center, the new lighting element is approximately double the size of the former skylight, at 28 and a half feet in diameter. It is modeled from the traditional laylight fixtures in the Senate and House chambers. The lighting element is an electrified light fixture fabricated in 44 pieces at a light specialty shop in Floyd, Virginia, and the LED panels will be programmed to mimic typical daylight qualities, including warmer morning light and cooler afternoon light.

“The new compass rose and lighting element are both visually appealing, with an intricate design that closely resembles the original, and structurally sound,” said **Joe Damico, DGS Director**. “We are pleased with the project results and delighted that we could finish it in time for lawmakers and visitors to return to Capitol Square for the special session.”

The work was necessary to address ongoing water infiltration issues with the former skylight, which was installed as part of the underground extension project completed in 2007. Approximately 1,200 square feet of existing waterproofing was replaced as part of this renovation.

The project also included temporary removal of the paving surrounding the compass to allow for replacement of the waterproofing membrane and insulation below. Each full-size paver is approximately 30 inches square and four inches thick, weighing between 350 and 400 pounds.

An art conservator removed the statue of Thomas Jefferson from the Visitor's Center for the duration of the work, and the statue was reinstalled last week.

About DGS: DGS provides laboratory, procurement, real estate, and engineering and architectural services for state agencies, as well as fleet vehicle management, graphic design, surplus property disposal, and mail services at the seat of government. The agency also manages the facilities and grounds at Capitol Square.

For more information on this and other Capitol Square construction projects, visit dgs.virginia.gov.

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